AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins
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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-238

ANS is a free, weekly, news and information service of AMSAT North America, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor@amsat.org

********** AMSAT 2007 Space Symposium **********

The Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club announces the 2007 AMSAT Space Symposium will be held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel on Friday, October 26 through Sunday, October 28, 2007. The AMSAT web team has posted informational pages on the AMSAT web site. You can find the announcement with many links at:
http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2007/index.php

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-238.01
Special Satellite Operating Event on ANDE for August 28 + 30

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 238.01
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
August 26, 2007
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-238.01

The US Naval Academy Satellite Laboratory announced a special ANDE Operations Event for the Tuesday, August 28 and Thursday, August 30 morning passes over the US East Coast.

Bob, WB4APR described the operation plans, "On Tuesday, Naval Academy stuents will operate ANDE to gather statistics on the success rate of the APRS mission. We invite participation, attended or unattended and request these guidelines be followed:
1) Tracking Base stations transmit at 5 minute intervals
2) 50W mobiles transmit at 3 minute intervals
3) 5W HT's transmit at 1 minute intervals

Bob reminds amateurs, "Please do not transmit more often, as it will mess up the statistics. It would be helpful if you put your station info in your posit text so we could confirm the validity of the statistics of your transmit rate". We recommend something like:
"Base=5min +10 dB"

"50W =3min w 5/8ths"
"HT=1min w 19" ant"

On Thursday, the Naval Academy may activate the packet to voice synthesizer.

ANDE operates on 145.825 MHz simplex and responds to packets that are addressed VIA APRSAT or VIA ARISS. For more information please See http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/ande-ops.html

[ANS thanks the US Naval Academy Satellite Laboratory for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-238.02
G0SFJ Satellite Mini-DXpedition to LZ and YO

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 238.02
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
August 26, 2007
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-238.02

Andy, G0SFJ operated on the FM satellites with an Arrow Antenna and a FT51-R from Bulgaria (LZ) on August 12-13 and from Romania (YO) on August 18.

>From Belite Brezi, Bulgaria Andy reported working these stations via AO51: G7HIA, 9H1FF, F6CDZ, G0VHS, PD1DRE, SW1IXP, OZ1MY, and DG9YIB.

>From Bucharest, Romania Andy worked IW0DTK while operating portable in Herastrau Park. Later that evening he worked ON5SA while operating in a sunflower field.

Photos of Andy's portable satellite operations can be seen at: http://andythomasmail.googlepages.com/qrpportablewitharrow

[ANS thanks Andy, G0SFJ for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-238.03
Digital Communications Conference September 28-30

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 238.03
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
August 26, 2007
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-238.03

The 26th Annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held on
September 28-30, 2007 in Hartford, CT will feature topics of interest to amateur satellite operators. AMSAT Director and VP Engineering, Bob McGwier, N4HY, will have several presentations.

On September 30 Bob will present the Sunday Seminar, "A Stroll Through Software Radio, Information Theory, and Some Applications." Software Radio will be the main theme and a package of tutorials and give away software will be a part of the seminar.

The Software Defined Radio linear transponder system in AMSAT's spacecraft
will be discussed. Some necessary information theory will be discussed with examples with the goal of leaving the attendee with a working knowledge of the practical use of this theory in thinking about communication
systems. As time permits, Bob will show some software radio systems from

the $30 softrock40 to GnuRadio/USRP doing multi megabit per second OFDM on the air and then a technical description of the Flex5000 and DttSP will be given.

Additional Software Defined Radio topics among the digital offerings at the conference include:

+ The FSM Virtual Radio Kernel: Why, What, & How (In That Order);
  Frank Brickle, PhD, AB2KT

+ AMSATï¿½s Phase IV (lite)?; Bob McGwier

+ On A Method for Automatic Image Balancing in IQ Mixer Based Software
  Defined Receivers; Bob McGwier, N4HY

+ TPSK31: Getting the Trellis Coded Modulation Advantage;
  Bob McGwier, N4HY

+ The Flex 5000 Software Defined Transceiver;
  Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR

And also known to AMSAT members, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR has written a paper for the conference: The APRS Local Voice Repeater Initiative.

Additional information and on-line registration is at:
http://www.tapr.org/dcc

[ANS thanks TAPR for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-238.04
Satellite Shorts From All Over

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 238.04
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
August 26, 2007
To All RADIO AMATEURS
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+ Satellite operators can find the latest information about New Zealand's
  KiwiSAT at http://www.kiwisat.org which is updated weekly. Terry,
  ZL3QL wrote, "The project is well down the track to completion and this
  page will give a good idea of what is still required." He invited ama-
  teurs to check out and respond to
http://www.kiwisat.org.nz/funding.html.

+ Matthias, DD1US invites satellite operators to visit his "Sounds from
  Space" site at http://www.dd1us.de. He has posted a collection of
  recordings from various space objects. Most of them are ham radio
  satellites and space ships.

+ NASA's two venerable Voyager spacecraft are celebrating three decades
  of flight as they head toward interstellar space. Their ongoing
odysseys
  mark an unprecedented and historic accomplishment. Voyager 2 launched
on
  Aug. 20, 1977, and Voyager 1 launched on Sept. 5, 1977. They continue
to
  return information from distances more than three times farther away
than
  Pluto.

+ Zarya, the International Space Station's first component to go into
  space, passed the 50,000th orbit mark this week on August 14. Zarya,
  which is Russian for "Sunrise", was funded by the United States and
  built by Russia. It launched atop a Proton rocket from Baikonur
  Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Nov. 20, 1998.

+ An interactive guide to the International Space Station can be found
  on-line at: http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/ISSRG/index.htm.

+ Google Earth software has now added the capability to view images of
  the sky. Using the new "Sky in Google Earth" feature you can zoom in
  Hubble images. Version 4.2 of the software at
http://earth.google.com/
  contains the additional sky watching features.

+ While not quite amateur radio related, many hams enjoy learning about
  scientific work in other fields. The events taking place today at
CERN's
  Large Hadron Collider outside Geneva, Switzerland by one of the
world's
  largest assembled teams of scientists attempting to discover what is
  considered the "Holy Grail" of particle physics, the Higgs Boson, and
  recreate the conditions that existed a few seconds after the Big Bang
  are highlighted in an interesting on-line BBC video at:
  http://video.google.com/videoplay?docidd54521153918323669

[ANS thanks everyone for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-238.05
ARISS Status Report For The Week of August 20, 2007

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 238.05
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
August 26, 2007
To All RADIO AMATEURS
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1. University Students Radio ISS

Fifteen students who attend Kursk State University in Russia experienced

a successful ARISS contact on Thursday, August 9. The students spoke
with cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, on board the ISS from Mount
Elbrus in the Caucasus Mountains, Russia.

2. ARISS Contact with Teacher Barbara Morgan, Successful

The McCall-Donnelly School District in McCall, Idaho participated in an
ARISS contact on Thursday, August 16, via the telebridge station VK5ZAI
in Australia. The school district consists of two high schools, one

middle
school, and two elementary schools and approximately 900 students.
During
the contact, eleven students asked one question each of Barbara Morgan,
KD5VNP, in front of an audience of 300. Local media outlets in McCall,
Idaho were present to cover the news.

The event was aired live on NASA TV and can be heard online and via
podcast
at: http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/podcasting/STS118_morgan_radio.html

Space.com ran an article on Morganï¿½s space activities including the
ARISS
contact with the McCall-Donnelly School District. See:
http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/070816_sts118_morgan_idaho.html

3. Upcoming School Contacts

Nanjing No. 3 High School in Nanjing, Jiangsu, P.R. China has been
sched-
uled for an ARISS contact on Sunday, August 26 at 10:49 UTC. To prepare
for the contact, elective courses will be offered on amateur radio and
contests will be held to determine the best essays and cartoons
concerning
ARISS. Other schools in the area will be invited to the event. The
school
has an active amateur radio club which was established in 1992 and has
been a five time winner of the national youth amateur radio contest.
Local
hams and businesses will support the students with the contact.
Extensive
media coverage is expected from newspapers, television and radio
stations
and the internet. The audio for this event will be fed into the EchoLink

AMSAT (101 377), the JSDXC (337 784) and JK1ZRW (277 208) servers. The
audio from this event is also planned to be fed into the IRLP Discovery
Reflector 9010.

Amagasaki Child Science Hall, located in Amagasaki, Hyogo, Japan has
been
scheduled for an ARISS contact on Tuesday, August 28 at 08:27 UTC. The
children will learn the history of Amagasaki, its economic growth and
the problems associated with its growth, such as pollution. They will
cover environmental issues and weather patterns that occur globally,
and will discuss the purpose of the ISS. An engineer will be invited
to speak to the children and will arrange for a tour at his companyï¿½s
research institute to increase the childrenï¿½s interest in space.

An ARISS contact has been planned for Ashland Greenwood High School
in Ashland, Nebraska on Wednesday, August 29 at 15:59 UTC. A NASA
committee
was formed at the school, comprised of teachers from grades K-12, in
order
to promote earth and space science. The school will present one space
fact
per day to the students over a five week period and at the end of this
time
a contest will be held to see who remembers the most facts. Clay
Anderson,
KD5PLA, is an alumnus of the school and visited students there in March
2007. Information about him has been posted to http://www.agps.org/.
This event is expected to receive newspaper and television coverage.
This

contact is a Clay Anderson crew pick.

4. Gail Borden Public Library to Contact ISS via Amateur Radio

The Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, Illinois, has been tentatively scheduled for an ARISS contact during the week of September 3. Gail Borden
Public Library has posted its press release on the event.
See: http://www.gailborden.info/LivewithISS.html

5. ARISS Video to be Presented at AMSAT Symposium

The Orlando, Florida Area Coordinator for AMSAT is currently working on a presentation to be given at the 2007 Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
(AMSAT) Space Symposium which will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on
October 26- 28. The presentation will include video from the July 17 ARISS
contact with the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children.

[ANS thanks Carol, KB3LKI for the above information]

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Office.

73,
This week's ANS Editor,
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